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JOSEPH A. ENGELHARD,
Wilmington, N. C.

Wilmington Journal.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1872.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

RALPH, Jan. 5, 1872.

DEAR JOURNAL:—It is almost too soon after the recess to expect anything stirring in the proceedings of the Legislature. Both houses are hard at work. I am more and more impressed, at each succeeding view, with the ability and industry of them. I do not believe, and my experience is considerable, ever to have seen a Legisla-
ture work more industriously. Most of the members are young men, but full of energy and devoted to the true welfare of North Carolina. Some of them have made much reputation, and will make their mark upon the political records of the State.

At this time, except the debate in the House to-day upon the proposed constitu-
tional amendments, there is nothing of general interest now transpiring, and that bill was postponed until next week. The Revenue bill will soon be up in the Senate, and will be passed, as it comes from the House, without important amendment.

The special committee is maturing bills for the re-districting of the State. The partisan work of the Radicals in gerrymandering the Senatorial districts will be undone, and some of the larger Radical committees, which have more than their due proportion of members, will be shorn of their borrowed strength, and the members given to committees entitled to them. If Congress shall pass the Congressional Apportionment Bill before the adjournment of the Legislature, the Congressional Districts will be re-arranged, as in that event North Carolina will be entitled to eight.

The question of Public Printing has occupied much of the attention of the Legislature, and is not yet disposed of. I think the members composing the majority have shown, possibly, less spirit and more timidity in regard to this matter than becomes them. The people who elected them expected and desired that the Public Printer should be selected from among those who labored for the success of their party. They only ask that such prices shall be paid as will be just and reasonable for the State and the Printer. The hue and cry raised by the opposition is a ridiculous endeavor to assume the mask of honesty.

It is indeed anxious to hear men who voted to sustain the Railroad and Penitentiary rings of 1868 and '69, and who voted, year after day, to merge North Carolina for the benefit of a miserable set of thieves and vagabonds, as ever disgraced a State, talk about virtue and honesty as placidly and fearlessly as a Sunday-school teacher. Would you believe it, Dear JOURNAL, that Brogren actually became indignant over the expenses of the Public Printing, and pretended that he had always voted to uphold investigating committees, especially the Bragg-Phillips Committee.

His protestations were so fervent, and he wore, withal, such a sanctimonious air, that I was almost tempted to doubt my own recollection of that field-day of rascality in the Senate chamber, when Senators staggered into the hall, reeking in the fumes of Littlefield's liquors, and almost succeeded in abolishing that Committee, while the patron saint was denouncing the officer who had been elected to the Committee, until his memory was refreshed by the incredulity visible upon the countenance of the Senators from Orange and Rowan, whose timely exposures defeated the disreputable proceedings.

I then remembered how faintly the virtuous Senator had voted "aye" upon the motion to abolish the Committee, and how boldly and proudly his compeer, John Davis, had embraced the dishonor. I recollected examining the record the next morning in the columns of the *Standard*, as I preferred to give him the benefit of all my doubts, to see if his spasmodic efforts had left any favorable trace upon the record. There it stood, side by side, with John Davis, in everlasting infamy.

And now he has always voted to sustain that Committee. Poor John! In your dishonored retirement, your friend, "having the last word," abundant you.

Could I be mistaken? Probably so faintly had the response been given that it had faded from the official record, or possibly it was but the effervescence of the elegant wine with which Littlefield's tables were loaded. I hunted up the Journals of the Senate. But there it was, side by side, with John Davis, linked in eternal infamy. Poor John! Virtuous Curtis!

Really the righteous indignation of the very loyal Senator from Wayne has led him away from speaking of measures of some local interest to our people. My letter is now too long to embrace them to-day. I will endeavor to do so to-morrow.

Yours, in haste, to save mail.

E.

RALPH, Jan. 6th, 1872.

DEAR JOURNAL:—Amongst the most interesting matters which will claim the attention of the Legislature is the rearranging of the Senatorial Districts, and the new apportionment for members of the House. The fact that in the present General Assembly the city of Newbern has two Senators and three members, Raleigh one Senator and four members, Wilmington one Senator and three members, shows how the State was gerrymandered in the interests of the Radicals. I take it for granted that the new apportionment these large Radical cities will not be entitled to more than their due proportion of representatives. In the rearrangement of Senatorial districts the gallant little county of Carteret ought not to be misrepresented in the Senate through the votes of Craven negroes, and that the aspirations of the Conservatives of Brunswick and Franklin should not be crushed by the negroes of New Hanover and Wake. I look with some interest to the report of the Committee.

There will be some changes, too, in the

House of Representatives. Two new counties, Dare and Swain, are to be provided for. But besides these, the equitable distribution of representative strength will give Sampson, Burene and Wilkes two instead of one member each present. These, with the new counties, to be provided for, will occasion a loss of five to other counties. It appears that Craven, Halifax and Granville, now sending three members each, will lose one, and two other counties, not remembered, will lose one each. These changes will all, or nearly all, be to the advantage of the Conservatives.

Very little has been said in regard to the senatorial question. It is understood that Governor Vance's resignation is in the hands of a Senator ready to be tendered. I suppose it will be withheld for a few days, until the disposition of the United States Senate upon the matter is known. It is reported that Governor Caldwell will refuse to commission any one as Senator whom the Legislature may elect. I do not know whether this refusal is to be based upon the ground that the Legislature has exhausted its powers under the acts of Congress regulating the election of Senators, or that there is no vacancy until the Senate declares one to exist. It is certain, if such is to be his action, that it is done with a view to secure the appointment in order that he may buy off Judge Settle or some more dangerous rival for the Radical nomination for Governor.

I hardly think, however, that the Governor would be guilty of such dangerous folly. It would require not more than twenty-four hours to place another man in the Executive office who would execute the law. And besides, the Governor's commission is merely a prescribed form of committing what the Legislature had done. It does not admit the applicant to his seat, and his refusal to give it would not exclude him from it. For if such was the case, a Governor of opposite politics might, at his will, at least temporarily defeat the will of the party composing the majority of the Legislature. Even in States where the veto power is given to the Governor, it does not extend to the election of officers.

These questions, however, only tend to complicate the matter. So far as I can learn, there is nothing certain, except that the impudent aspirations of General Caldwell will be rejected. Even if Governor Caldwell should appoint, it would cost him his re-election should he give it to Abbott.

Dr. Norment, the very efficient Senator from Robeson, has made a fruitless effort to bring the Lowery gang to punishment. I fail to see the justice of weighing the lives of citizens and the cost of their protection in opposite scales. The United States Government is using the army to punish the Ku-Klux. Governor Holden did not hesitate to violate law, without regard to cost, for the same purpose. Lowery has killed more men in the State than the Ku-Klux and the Loyal Leaguers together. I do not think the Senate should have hesitated to vote an appropriation sufficiently large to have secured the arrest of these lawless men.

It was a little remarkable, with what unanimity and enthusiasm the Radical Senators voted against the appropriation. The colored Senator from New Hanover, Price, seemed more interested to defeat the measure than anything which has yet claimed the attention of the Senate. Indeed his interest assumed the appearance of a personal sympathy with the outlaw. So warmly did he oppose all efforts to bring these men to justice, that the report hereafter that he was, his friend, and had lately held conference with them, gained credence.

Amendment after amendment was offered by Price looking to the defeat of the measure. Finally Senator Robbins, of Rowan, asked him if he had not lately held conference with Lowery. Price answered him by the question at first, then stammeringly answered, "What has that to do with the amendment?" "Your desire to arrest these outlaws," replied Major Robbins, "has been questioned, and I wish to give you the opportunity of explaining your position." Without a word, Price resumed his seat, seemingly conscious of having betrayed his sympathy with the murderers.

Was he innocent? Why did he not indignantly deny the truth of the report and demand investigation? Was he guilty? He stands accused and his conduct gave weight to the charges. Of such is the Radical party.

Here I am again, at the end of a long letter without having referred to matters of more local interest. These with others I must defer.

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I had the pleasure to-day of visiting Professor Kerr's Laboratory and Geological Museum. It is really wonderful to see what a vast number of geological specimens he has collected, most of which are the productions of our own soil. Beginning with the fishes of our Eastern Seaboard, and the marls of the Atlantic coast, through the iron and coal of the middle section to the vast and valuable mineral resources of the mountains, his cases are filled, presenting at one view a complete and varied picture of the geological development of North Carolina.

Upon the large Geological Map of the State upon the scale of a mile to two inches, when completed he will have it engraved to accompany his report. This will take a few weeks longer. Upon this special work we found our friend, Mrs. Cornelia Spencer, busily engaged. She is not better known to the people of the State as the authoress of "The Last Ninety Days of the War," than she is by her devotion to the interests of the University, to which she is bound by the ties of affection and pride. Her father and brother, Doctor and Professor Phillips, are identified with the proud history of that Institution.

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Upon the large Geological Map of the State upon the scale of a mile to two inches, when completed he will have it engraved to accompany his report. This will take a few weeks longer. Upon this special work we found our friend, Mrs. Cornelia Spencer, busily engaged. She is not better known to the people of the State as the authoress of "The Last Ninety Days of the War," than she is by her devotion to the interests of the University, to which she is bound by the ties of affection and pride. Her father and brother, Doctor and Professor Phillips, are identified with the proud history of that Institution.

This vast map will give a correct view of the geological resources of the State, and will prove of great benefit towards promoting immigration.

Professor Kerr is now in possession of letters asking for the information which a map of this nature will be more than anything else to bring the advantages of our State to the attention of the world. We hope the delegates to the Agricultural Convention, which meets in Raleigh next week, will find time to visit his Museum.

The Dress Hop given last night in Tucker's Hall was a brilliant and delightful affair. Besides the belles of Raleigh, I noticed several from other portions of the State. The Messrs. Tucker deserve much credit for their liberality and consideration in providing these delightful entertainments. Besides leading the dry goods business of the State, they are not unmindful of those social recreations which give zest and enthusiasm to a visit to the Capital.

As usual, I find the Yarrowburgh house comfortably filled with visitors from all portions of the State. You are sure to find Mr. Blackhall there, and Dr. Blackhall has no superior in clever attention to his guests. He is making the Yarrowburgh the great North Carolina headquarters.

Yours, E.

RALPH, N. C., Jan. 6, 1872.

DEAR JOURNAL:—I find that our Senator and Representative, Major McManis and Captain Ashe, very busy, not only looking out for the special interests of their immediate constituents, but also laboring for the general welfare of the State.

To-day, in the Senate, as you have already been advised by telegraph, the bill in aid of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad, passed that body. Its success is mainly attributable to the attention of our worthy Senator, Dr. Murphy, of Sampson, has also been very assiduous in his efforts to further this bill, and indeed all measures which are calculated to promote the welfare of our section of the State.

Captain Ashe is justly regarded as one of the ablest and most industrious members of the House. He is devoting much of his time and thought to questions of Finance and Taxes, and the result of his labors will be felt in North Carolina.

There are now pending in our House or the other the following local bills of some interest:

Bill to incorporate the Bank of New Hanover. The Capital Stock is not to exceed one million dollars. I. B. Grainger, D. R. Murdochson, A. Sprunt, A. D. Brown, J. W. Atkinson, John E. Lippitt and W. R. Empe are named as incorporators.

Bill to incorporate the Dawson Bank, I. B. Grainger, John Dawson and William A. Wright are the incorporators named.

Bill to incorporate W. H. H. Bank, with similar provisions—names of incorporators not remembered.

Bill to incorporate the "Ship Canal Company of Wilmington." It proposes to cut a canal from the head of Smith's Creek to the ocean, at or near Barron Inlet. Mr. Young, of Georgia, and W. P. Pope are the incorporators named.

Bill to establish a new county by the name of Fayetteville from a portion of New Hanover. The proposed new county will be that portion of New Hanover lying East and North of a line commencing at Rich Inlet, running by a straight line to the mouth of Island Creek, thence down North

East River to the mouth of Long Creek, embracing all that portion of New Hanover North of the North East branch of Cape Fear River, together with Grant and Holly Townships on the East side of said River. Bill to annex a portion of New Hanover (Franklin Township) to Sampson county. Bill to confer cumulative suffrage on the voters of the City of Wilmington in elections for Aldermen.

The bill to enable the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad to complete its road, and the bill to consolidate the Planter's and the Wilmington and Onslow Railroads have been published in the JOURNAL.

There are several other local bills of considerable interest, which I have failed to get a look at.

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